

Andrew RT Davies

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Ganol De Cymru

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Vikki Howells MS
Chair, Standards of Conduct Committee

Sent by email

9th May 2024

Dear Vikki

Re: First Minister letter to the Chair of the Standards of Conduct Committee

I write with regard to the above.

In his letter, the First Minister outlined some proposed workstreams for your Committee. These focused on donations to party leadership campaigns. However, I have some concerns with the First Minister's suggested terms of reference. Specifically, I am concerned that they fail to take into account the compatibility of the Ministerial Code with the Code of Conduct for Members of the Senedd, and the ability of the Standards Commissioner to investigate a complaint if it involves a Senedd Member who is also a serving minister.

As you will be aware, in practice party leadership candidates will frequently also be serving ministers. As such, it is important that any potential anomalies are addressed. It is therefore vital that, if the Committee takes this work forward, it considers the compatibility of the Ministerial Code with the Code of Conduct for Senedd Members. I therefore suggest that the Committee seeks evidence from current and former Standards Commissioners and other interested parties as to how the two Codes could be assimilated. This would allow the Standards Commissioner to undertake an investigation into any complaints made.

Having previously served as a member of the Committee for many years, I appreciate the level of work it has to undertake. I also appreciate how detailed and time consuming this work can be. I would therefore be grateful if you would confirm that, if the Committee decides to undertake this work, it has the resources and ability to do so, with no detrimental impacts on its capacity to fulfil its core purpose.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Out of courtesy, I am copying this letter to the respective party leaders in the Senedd and to the Presiding Officer.



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Kind regards,

Andrew RT Davies

Andrew RT Davies MS

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the Welsh Parliament
South Wales Central Regional MS

